**Creating SEZs in education sector**

1366. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to create SEZs in education sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that fee in the educational institutions set up in such SEZs will be charged in foreign currency as reported in media;

(c) if so, whether Government have appreciated that a large section of Indian population will be excluded from availing the opportunity in the institutions located in SEZs due to such clause; and

(d) the steps being taken to ease the access to Indian citizens in such educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI) : (a) While Rule 76 of the SEZ Rules lists the services that can be provided from an SEZ, and includes educational services, there is no proposal at present to create SEZ specifically for the education sector.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Weightage to attendance and internal assessment**

1367. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised norms for giving weightage to attendance and internal assessment to improve the present system of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these norms are likely to be implemented all over the country; and

(d) the broad guidelines drawn in this regard to improve the deteriorating standard of education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per information provided by CBSE, there is no weightage for attendance in the examinations. However, to appear in the Board's Class X and XII examinations, the students need to have at least 75% of attendance. The Board has also revised and strengthened the internal assessment scheme in Classes IX and X in order to bring about holistic improvement in assessment.

CBSE has also introduced internal evaluation in Social Science from Class IX in 2004-05 and in Class X in 2005-06. Similarly internal evaluation for 20 marks in the subject of Mathematics has also been introduced from Class IX in 2005-06.

These norms are implemented in all the schools affiliated to CBSE all over the country and abroad.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has also issued regulations in 2003 on the minimum standard of instruction for the grant of first degree. As per the regulations there shall be continuous sessional evaluation in each course in addition to trimester/semester/year end examinations and the weightage for sessional evaluation and examination in respect of each course shall be duly prescribed.

Further, the minimum number of lectures, practicals, tutorials and seminars which a student shall be required to attend for eligibility to appear at the examination shall be prescribed by the University which shall ordinarily not be less than 75% of the total number of lectures, practicals, tutorials, seminars and any other prescribed requirements.

**Agreement with foreign countries for higher education**

1368. SHRI N.R GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into any agreement with foreign countries in the field of higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the U.K. has proposed to extend financial help to improve the quality of higher education in India; and